

**Nebraska Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
Minutes – Mental Health Advisory Committee**

Date: Tuesday, February 22, 2006

Location: Omaha State Office Building, 3rd floor, Conference Room E

Interpreter: Christine Lafinhan

Members Present

Vickie Frizzell Pratt
Jackie Prater-Johnson
Mary Slominski
Richard McCowin

Technical Advisors Present

Natasha Kraft
Vickie Schaepler

NCDHH Staff Present

Tanya Wendel
Peggy Williams
Beth Ellsworth

Gather and Welcome

Ms. Pratt called the meeting to order at 2:00 PM and introduced herself to Natasha Kraft who was attending the meeting in place of Diane Meyers with the Metro Regional Program. Ms. Kraft is the Activities Coordinator for the Regional Program.

Approval of December 20, 2005 Minutes

Ms. Kraft noted that corrections need to be made with comments by Jill Bird under agency updates. A motion was made by Ms. Slominski to approve the minutes with the corrections, Ms. Prater seconded the motion.

Critical Incident Training Follow Up

Ms. Pratt explained that she had contacted CISM and stated that they had changed their protocol and would not be interested in coming to Nebraska to provide Critical Incident training. Discussion was held regarding Psych 1st aide training and various models to use for the training. It was suggested to keep the Critical Incidence and Emergency Preparedness training separate. Ms. Pratt stated that the Mitchell Model was not as comprehensive as other models and might be a good model to use. It was again emphasized that having this training would be an excellent way to train the community. Jill is working with Lincoln Public Schools in an effort to incorporate the training into their program. Natasha stated she will contact someone at Gallaudet and inquire on the model they use for training and send the reply to me. It was further discussed that there are probably several different models and it was agreed that there needs to be more research on what would work best for deaf and hard of hearing people in Nebraska.

Interpreter Licensure Update

Ms. Wendel stated that LB 87 would not impact the mental health area unless it was a state agency and announced that the bill had advanced from general file to select file. She mentioned that LB87 is a clean up bill adding CEU's. This legislation involves state agencies, courts, police and legal proceedings. If this bill is passed, Ms. Wendel feels that it would go into effect July, 2007. Ms. Wendel informed the advisory committee that

NCDHH has a licensing board of 8 members and that this board has been in effect for 4 years. She explained that K-12 and medical were not included in the legislation as the Senator that introduced the legislation did not want this included. Ms. Wendel stated that the regulations will have various types of licensures based on if you are RID or QAST certified.

ASL Bill Update

Ms. Wendel reported that LB 946 was legislation drafted this year to recognize ASL as a foreign language. The bill was heard before the Education committee and Senator Raikes is chair of the committee. This is the second time this bill has been introduced. She passed out a press release on the bill. She stated that the bill was introduced by Senator Wehrbein and at this time it is not out of committee and feels that the bill will not pass out of committee this year. She indicated that the Neb. Department of Education was looking at the bill to determine if it would fall under World Languages. The Regional Coordinators are also looking at this bill for K-12. The MHAC further discussed ASL/SEE and offered their assistance and questioned whether or not this language could be transferred to college programs. It was decided that Ms. Pratt would draft a letter of support from the MHAC to the Education Committee supporting LB 946.

Ms. Wendel stated that 41 other states recognize ASL as a language but this cannot be looked at as a bargaining tool.

Emergency Preparedness Letter (Draft)

Ms. Williams passed out the letter that will be sent to CEPIN requesting consumer Emergency Preparedness training in Nebraska and asked for any comments, additions or corrections. Following discussion and modifications to the letter, it was decided that Ms. Williams would make the changes, email the correspondence to the advisory members for review and if there was no reply from the members within a couple of days go ahead and mail the letter.

Child Protective Services (H&HS)

Discussion was held regarding Child Protective services (CPS) issues as it relates to deaf children. It was decided to table this discussion until Ms. Brown sends Ms. Williams various scenarios' in an effort to gather specific information regarding deaf and hard of hearing children not receiving adequate CPS in school, foster families and court. Ms. Pratt encouraged therapists to meet with their administrators and Health and Human Service administrators if they see a need that is not being met. Recommendation was made to set up a workshop for Health and Human Services CPS workers certified as social workers and present the workshop idea to the advisory members at the next meeting.

Center for Disease Control Grant

Due to time this item was tabled until the next meeting so Ms. Williams could have time to meet with Ms. Wendel about the grant.

Agency Updates

Ms. Prater: Child Guidance Center is in the process of writing a grant for adolescent treatment. She stated that discussion for the deaf had been involved. She indicated that Child Guidance provides out patient services and that there is a sliding fee scale for services. They are currently providing therapy to the Lincoln Public Schools. She said they are considering an extended day treatment program for ages 6-12 years of age and a group home for adolescent sex offenders as well as looking at other new programs.

Mary Slominski: Medicaid has not approved Lutheran Family Service's (LFS) Telehealth Program yet. Ms. Slominski gave a brief overview of LFS programs and services and stated that there are 31 LFS offices in the State. Services include: counseling, adoptions, foster care, sex offender and family therapy, mental health therapy and out patient and intensive substance abuse services.

Vickie Schaepler: Vocational Rehabilitation now has a new Traumatic Brain Injury program.

Natasha Kraft: There were 111 deaf and hard of hearing students at the winter dance.

Beth Ellsworth: She has had contact with the Visitors Nurse Association about Lifeline services for deaf and hard of hearing people. She stated that she has been seeing a lot of depression with the elderly.

Richard McCowin: On Jan. 21st NeAD had a Leadership workshop and had positive results from the workshop. He reported that the Open Round Table Conference will be held on March 25th and announced that NeAD is attempting to get an ASL Teachers Association established. Mr. McCowin will talk to the NeAD board about being one of the sponsors for the Domestic Violence workshop that Ms. Williams wants to coordinate.

New Business

- A.) Ms. Williams passed out NCDHH's Fiscal year Comparison's report.
- B.) Ms. Williams reported that she and Ms. Wendel attended a meeting at RTC, Boys Town for the purpose of serving on a committee to determine if there is a need for a Residential Treatment Center for deaf and hard of hearing children. Ms. Williams will report any further developments that are made on this committee.
- C.) Ms. Pratt reported that LB 271 is in General File. This bill would provide licensure to mental health professionals giving them the ability to diagnose major mental illness. She stated that the next State Mental Health Board would meet March 3rd and the meeting is open to the public. The Mental Health Board has a newsletter "Mental Health Practice Board News" if anyone is interested.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 16, 2006 in Lincoln.

The meeting adjourned at 3:40 PM.